IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (original) A method in a communication system for relocating a protocol termination point, comprising:

defining a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of a first termination point of a first protocol by the first protocol;

transferring the protocol initialization unit from the first termination point to a second termination point by a second protocol; and

initializing the second termination point based on the protocol initialization unit.

2.   (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains state information of the first protocol termination point.

3.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first termination point is located at a first network element of the communication system and the second termination point is located at a second network element of the communication system.

4.   (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the second network element, upon receiving the protocol information unit, generates and transmits a response to the first network element by means of the second protocol.

5.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is encapsulated in a message transmitted between the first termination point and the second termination point by the second protocol.

6.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transparent for the second protocol.

7.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transmitted via a third network element between the termination points.

8.   (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the transmission is based on a radio access network application part (RANAP) protocol.

9.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit is transmitted by a direct connection between the termination points.

10.   (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the transmission is based on a radio network subsystem application part (RNSAP) protocol.

11.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the predefined information of the first protocol comprise one or several parameters of a radio resource control protocol (RRC), medium access control protocol (MAC), radio link control protocol (RLC), and/or packet data convergence protocol (PDCP).

12.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

13.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising steps of:

defining at least one further protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of a further protocol by the further protocol; and

transferring the further protocol initialization unit from the first termination point to the second termination point.

14.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the further protocol initialization unit is transferred between the termination points by a protocol that is different from the second protocol.

15.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the termination points is located at one of the following: a base station controller, a radio network controller, a base station, a gateway.

16.   (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of initializing the second termination point comprises setting the parameters of the second termination point into a state that is similar to the parameters of the first termination point before or at the time the relocation procedure was initiated.

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17.   (original) A communication system, comprising:

a first protocol termination point;

a second protocol termination point;

control means for relocating a first protocol from the first protocol termination point to

the second protocol termination point, said control means being arranged to form a protocol

initialization unit containing predefined information of the first protocol at the first protocol

termination point;

communication path based on a second protocol between the first and the second

termination points for transferring the protocol initialization unit; and

control means for initializing the second protocol termination point based on the protocol

initialization unit.

18.   (original) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the protocol

initialization unit contains state information of the first protocol termination point.

19.   (previously amended) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the

control means for relocating are arranged to encapsulate the protocol initialization unit into a

message to be transmitted from the first termination point to the second termination point.

20.   (previously amended) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the first

termination point is located at a first network element of the communication system and the

control means for relocating are arranged in connection with the first network element.

21.   (previously amended) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the second termination point is located at a second network element of the communication system and the control means for initializing are arranged in connection with the second network element.

22.   (previously amended) A communication system according to claim 17, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

23.   (original) A network element for use in a communication network, comprising:

a protocol termination point;

control means for relocating a first protocol from the protocol termination point to another protocol termination point, said control means being arranged to form a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of the first protocol at the protocol termination point; and

interface to said other protocol termination point based on a second protocol for transferring the protocol initialization unit from the first termination point by means of the second protocol.

24.　(original)　A network element according to claim 23, wherein the network element comprises a controller of a cellular communication network.

25.　(previously amended)　A network element according to claim 23, wherein the control means for relocating are arranged to encapsulate the protocol initialization unit into a message to be transmitted from the first termination point by means of the second protocol.

26.　(previously amended)　A network element according to claim 23, wherein the protocol initialization unit contains information of at least one further protocol.

27.　(currently amended)　A network element for use in a communication network, comprising:

a protocol termination point of a first protocol;

an interface to another protocol termination point for receiving a protocol initialization unit containing predefined information of the first protocol at said other termination point, wherein the interface is based on a second protocol; and

control means for initializing the protocol termination point based on the received protocol initialization unit.

28.　(original)　A network element according to claim 27, wherein the network element comprises a controller of a cellular communication network.